

## **News Release**

For Immediate Release: March 29, 2019

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## New, upgraded sirens to be included as part of April 1 monthly siren testing on Kaua'i

Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency and Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency officials are advising the public that as part of ongoing system upgrades and coverage expansion, several new Kaua'i outdoor warning sirens will be included as part of the April 1, 2019, statewide outdoor warning siren test.

New coverage areas will be provided by sirens at Keālia Kai and Ōma'o Park, while new, upgraded legacy siren replacements include Wailua Homesteads Park, Waipouli Waikaea Canal, Kaumakani Neighborhood Center and Kekaha Gardens.

"Being that these are new siren coverage areas, we want to ensure that our residents and visitors in the vicinity of Keālia Kai and Ōma'o Park are aware of the test ahead of time and that they not be alarmed to hear them," said Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami. "Also, people in the vicinity near the new, upgraded sirens should benefit from expanded coverage areas, as the newer units are taller, multi-directional and are significant improvements over the older, legacy sirens."

In addition, the siren at 'Anini Beach Pavilion has had all major components replaced, due to damage from a lightning strike, and it will once again be operational.

KEMA Senior Staff Officer Chelsie Sakai added, "While these new sirens are operational, they are yet to be formally acceptance-tested by our partners at HI-EMA and the

State contractor, which will take place mid-April. We're considering the test on April 1 as a dry run."

As a reminder, monthly testing of the Statewide Outdoor Warning Siren System is done in conjunction with a test of the Live Audio Broadcast segment of the Emergency Alert System at 11:45 a.m. on the first County/State government workday of the month. The public may contact the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency at 241-1800 or <a href="mailto:kema@kauai.gov">kema@kauai.gov</a> to report siren operation issues.

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